IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A ~~first~~ node comprising:

~~a processor~~ one or more processors; and

[[a]] memory;

wherein the ~~processor is operable to execute program instructions stored in the~~ memory stores program instructions executable by the one or more processors to implement:

receiving a request from a client application, wherein the request requires a transaction;

in response to the request, sending a first message to a plurality of participant nodes participating in the transaction;

in response to receiving a reply to the first message from at least a quorum of the participant nodes, sending a second message to the plurality of participant nodes;

in response to receiving a reply to the second message from at least a quorum of the participant nodes:

returning an indication ~~success~~ to the client application that the request was successfully processed; and

sending a third message to the plurality of participant nodes, wherein the third message instructs the participant nodes to commit the transaction.

2.   (Currently Amended) The first node of claim 1,

wherein ~~said~~ sending the third message to the plurality of participant nodes comprises sending the third message after ~~said~~ returning the indication ~~success~~ to the client application.

3.   (Currently Amended) The first node of claim 1,

wherein the first message comprises a message requesting each of the participant nodes to reply by indicating whether they can commit the transaction;

wherein said receiving the reply to the first message from at least a quorum of the participant nodes comprises receiving a reply indicating an ability to commit the transaction from at least a quorum of the participant nodes.

4. (Currently Amended) The <u>first</u> node of claim 1,

wherein the second message comprises a message requesting each of the participant nodes to enter a state indicating that the transaction is to be committed;

wherein said receiving the reply to the second message from at least a quorum of the participant nodes comprises receiving a reply indicating ~~movement to~~ <u>entrance into</u> the state indicating that the transaction is to be committed from at least a quorum of the participant nodes.

5. (Currently Amended) The <u>first</u> node of claim 1,

wherein the first message corresponds to a message for a first phase of a three-phase commit protocol.

6. (Currently Amended) The <u>first</u> node of claim 1,

wherein the second message corresponds to a message for a second phase of a three-phase commit protocol.

7. (Currently Amended) The <u>first</u> node of claim 1,

<u>wherein sending the third message to the plurality of participant nodes completes the first node's involvement in the transaction.</u>

~~wherein the processor is operable to execute program instructions stored in the memory to further implement:~~

~~forgetting about the transaction after said sending the third message.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The <u>first</u> node of claim 1,

wherein ~~the node~~ <u>completion of the transaction</u> does not ~~expect~~ <u>require</u> a reply to the third message <u>from any of the participant nodes</u>.

9.   (Currently Amended) The <u>first</u> node of claim 1,

wherein each participant node commits the transaction in response to receiving the third message but does not return a reply to the third message.

10.   (Currently Amended) The <u>first</u> node of claim 1,

wherein the request comprises a request to update a file;

wherein the ~~request requires a~~ <u>transaction comprises a</u> transaction to <u>coordinate updates to</u> ~~update~~ multiple replicas of the file~~,~~ wherein each <u>respective</u> replica is located on a <u>respective one of the plurality of</u> participant ~~node~~ <u>nodes</u>.

11.   (Currently Amended) The <u>first</u> node of claim 1,

wherein the <u>first</u> node is a node in a peer-to-peer network;

wherein the peer-to-peer network implements a distributed file sharing system.

12.   (Currently Amended) A <u>first</u> node comprising:

~~a processor~~ <u>one or more processors</u>;

[[a]] memory;

wherein the ~~processor is operable to execute program instructions stored in the~~ memory <u>stores program instructions executable by the one or more processors</u> to implement:

receiving a request from a client application, wherein the request requires a transaction;

in response to the request, sending a first message to a plurality of participant nodes participating in the transaction;

in response to receiving a reply to the first message from at least a quorum of the participant nodes, sending a second message to the plurality of participant nodes;

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in response to receiving a reply to the second message from at least a quorum of the participant nodes, sending a third message to the plurality of participant nodes, wherein the third message instructs the participant nodes to commit the transaction;

wherein ~~the node~~ completion of the transaction does not ~~expect~~ require a reply to the third message from any of the participating ~~node~~ nodes.

13.   (Currently Amended) The first node of claim 12,

wherein sending the third message to the plurality of participant nodes completes the first node's involvement in the transaction.

~~wherein the node forgets about the transaction after said sending the third message.~~

14.   (Currently Amended)   A ~~carrier~~ computer-readable memory medium ~~comprising~~ storing program instructions executable to implement:

receiving a request from a client application, wherein the request requires a transaction;

in response to the request, sending a first message to a plurality of participant nodes participating in the transaction;

in response to receiving a reply to the first message from at least a quorum of the participant nodes, sending a second message to the plurality of participant nodes;

in response to receiving a reply to the second message from at least a quorum of the participant nodes:

returning an indication ~~success~~ to the client application that the request was successfully processed; and

sending a third message to the plurality of participant nodes, wherein the third message instructs the participant nodes to commit the transaction.

15.   (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ computer-readable memory medium of claim 14,

wherein ~~said~~ sending the third message to the plurality of participant nodes comprises sending the third message after ~~said~~ returning <u>the indication</u> ~~success~~ to the client application.

16.   (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable memory</u> medium of claim 14, ~~wherein the program instructions are further executable to implement:~~

~~forgetting about the transaction after said sending the third message.~~

<u>wherein completion of the transaction does not require a reply to the third message from any of the participant nodes.</u>

17.   (Currently Amended) The [[node]] <u>computer-readable memory medium</u> of claim [[1]] <u>14</u>,

wherein the request comprises a request to update a file;

wherein the ~~request requires a~~ <u>transaction comprises a</u> transaction to <u>coordinate updates to</u> ~~update~~ multiple replicas of the file, wherein each <u>respective</u> replica is located on a <u>respective one of the plurality of</u> participant ~~node~~ <u>nodes</u>.

18.   (Currently Amended) A ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable memory</u> medium ~~comprising~~ <u>storing</u> program instructions executable to implement [[the]] <u>a</u> method [[of]] <u>comprising</u>:

a first node receiving a request from a client application, wherein the request requires a transaction;

in response to the request, the first node sending a first message to a plurality of participant nodes participating in the transaction;

each of the plurality of participating nodes replying to the first message by indicating an ability to commit the transaction;

the first node sending a second message to the plurality of participant nodes;

each of the plurality of participating nodes replying to the second message by indicating entrance to a state indicating that the transaction is to be committed;

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in response to receiving replies to the second message from at least a quorum of the participant nodes, the first node returning <u>an indication</u> ~~success~~ to the client application <u>that the request was successfully processed</u>; and

the first node sending a third message to the plurality of participant nodes, wherein the third message instructs the participant nodes to commit the transaction.

19.   (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable memory</u> medium of claim 18,

wherein <u>said</u> sending the third message to the plurality of participant nodes comprises sending the third message after <u>said</u> returning <u>the indication</u> ~~success~~ to the client application.

20.   (Currently Amended) The ~~carrier~~ <u>computer-readable memory</u> medium of claim 18, <u>wherein the method implemented by the program instructions</u> further ~~comprising program instructions to implement~~ <u>comprises</u>:

each participant node committing the transaction in response to receiving the third message;

wherein the participant nodes do not send a reply to the third message to the first node.

21-22. (Canceled)

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